

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I'll say to Senator Beutler on that, certainly not. Members of the Legislature, we know that consistency is not the strong suit or long suit in this Legislature. And I would say that this resolution is going to have...I can think of six negative votes right now, but I'm not going to be one of them. This is a matter that I believe the committee has worked on for some period of time and, again, the issue is out in the public, it's before us. Maybe the Attorney General will try some stratagem or some political maneuver to frustrate what is being attempted here. But I really don't know what else can be done. I know, Senator Witek, what I would like to see the outcome be. And in pursuing the course laid out by this resolution, there is no way in my opinion that we can determine that such an outcome will result. But I think it would be difficult for the state to prevail if prevailing means that all of these people are going to be cut out. That could happen, but I don't expect it to happen. In this case, what the Attorney General should do is retain outside counsel. He has already made it clear that his view is jaundiced. He starts with a conflict of interest by stating that he cannot or will not comply with the resolution. What he will try to do is defend his Opinion, and his Opinion contains other opinions within it which I think are not necessarily sound based on the law so he is admitting that he has an agenda or a predetermined outcome that he is seeking and if, in order to achieve that outcome, it means sinking the ship, he'll sink the ship. So the Attorney General, if this resolution is adopted, should retain outside counsel. And despite the fact that he has assigned incompetent attorneys, assistant attorneys general, to write opinions which were not valid under the law, I think he would violate the code of professional responsibility if he deliberately selected an attorney lacking the competency to adequately handle the issues involved in this case. I'm going to vote for the resolution. I think that, well, I won't give the number of votes because some people will make sure we don't get that number just to defeat my prediction. But now I'd like to ask Senator Witek a question because we'll never have an opportunity in this life to discuss this particular issue under these particular circumstances again.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Witek, will you yield for a question?